

Application No. 10/070862
Page 3

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2I-10378-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

Claim 16 has been withdrawn by the Examiner.

1. **(Previously Presented):** The fixation system according to claim 4 characterized in that the two adjacent holes are obliquely inclined towards each other, with the axes of the two holes (2, 3, 4) diverging on the side of the force carrier (1) facing the bone.
2. **(Original):** The fixation system according to claim 1 wherein the reinforcement (5, 6) is an enlargement in cross-section and/or an area where the material of the force carrier (1) is of a larger strength.
3. **(Original):** The fixation system according to claim 2 wherein the enlargement in cross-section is a thickened portion (11, 12) and/or a widened portion (5, 6) of the force carrier (1) and/or a reduction of the transverse extension of the hole (2, 3, 4) of the force carrier (1).
4. **(Previously Presented):** A fixation system for bones with a force carrier (1) having holes (2, 3, 4) and bone screws (36 to 41) adapted to be inserted into and fixed in the holes (2, 3, 4) wherein the force carrier (1) has two adjacent holes (2, 3, 4) which are to be disposed on different sides of a zone of fracture or instability of the bone, and at which the force carrier (1) has a reinforcement (5, 6), as compared to its configuration at holes (2, 3, 4) which are to be arranged further away from the zone of fracture or instability of a bone, characterized in that the bone screws (36 to 41) are adapted to be fixed in the holes (2, 3, 4) and that the reinforcement (5, 6) has a widened portion (5, 6) of the force carrier (1) and/or a reduction of the transverse

Application No. 10/070862

Page 4

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2I-10378-US01

extension of the hole (2, 3, 4) of the force carrier (1) and/or an area where the material the force carrier (1) is of a larger strength.

5. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 4 wherein the enlargement in cross-section has a thickened portion of the force carrier (1).

6. (Withdrawn): The fixation system according to claim 1 wherein the force carrier (1) also has a reinforcement (5, 6) at a hole (2, 3, 4) which requires to be disposed at a larger distance from the zone of fracture or instability of a bone than requires another hole (2, 3, 4) and this reinforcement, however, is smaller than it is at a hole (2, 3, 4) which requires to be disposed at a smaller distance from the zone of fracture of instability.

7. (Withdrawn): The fixation system according to claim 6 wherein the force carrier (1) has a reinforcement (5, 6) at the hole (2, 3, 4) which is at the smallest distance from the zone of fracture or instability of a bone, wherein the force carrier (1) further has a reinforcement (5, 6) which is only of about half the strength as the reinforcement mentioned first, at a hole adjacent to the hole (2, 3, 4) mentioned first, and that the force carrier (1) has no reinforcement (5, 6) at a hole (2, 3, 4) which requires to be disposed at an even larger distance from the zone of fracture or instability of a bone.

8. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 4, characterized in that at least two holes (2, 3, 4) are obliquely inclined towards each other.

*Application No. 10/070862
Page 5*

*Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2I-10378-US01*

9. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 8 wherein the axes of the two holes (2, 3, 4) diverge on the side of the force carrier (1) which is to face the bone.

10. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 9 wherein the at least two holes (2, 3, 4) obliquely inclined towards each other are disposed on different sides of a portion of the force carrier (1) which requires to be associated with a zone of fracture or instability of a bone.

11. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 1 wherein at least one hole (2, 3, 4) is obliquely inclined towards the force carrier (1).

12. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 1 wherein at least two holes (2, 3, 4) of the force carrier (1) conformed to a bone are obliquely inclined towards each other.

13. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 1 wherein the bone screws (36 to 41) are adapted to be inserted into and fixed in the holes (2, 3, 4) of the force carrier (1) under different angles.

14. (Original): The fixation system according to claim 1 wherein the force carrier (1) is a bone plate, a bone nail or a fixateur.

15. (Previously Presented): A fixation system for bones with a force carrier (1) having holes (2, 3, 4) and bone screws (36 to 41) adapted to be inserted into and fixed in the holes (2, 3, 4) wherein the force carrier (1) has two adjacent holes (2, 3, 4) which are to be disposed on different

Application No. 10/070862
Page 6

Amendment
Attorney Docket No. H01.2I-10378-US01

sides of a zone of fracture or instability of the bone, and at which the force carrier (1) has a reinforcement (5, 6), as compared to its configuration at holes (2, 3, 4) which are to be arranged further away from the zone of fracture or instability of a bone, characterized in that the bone screws (36 to 41) near the zone of fracture provide a greater force to the force carrier than the bone screws further away from the zone of fracture.

16. (Withdrawn): The fixation system of claim 15 wherein at least two of the bone screws have a different cross-sectional diameter.

17. (Previously Presented): A fixation system for bones with a force carrier (1) having holes (2, 3, 4) and bone screws (36 to 41) adapted to be inserted into and fixed in the holes (2, 3, 4) wherein the force carrier (1) has two adjacent holes (2, 3, 4) which are to be disposed on different sides of a zone of fracture or instability of the bone, and at which the force carrier (1) has a reinforcement (5, 6), as compared to its configuration at holes (2, 3, 4) which are to be arranged further away from the zone of fracture or instability of a bone, characterized in that the bone screws (36 to 41) have a conical thread, which allow the threads to be turned in at different angular orientations, causing the bone screws to be fixed in the holes.